

Challenge

The Parish Newsletter of St Mary's, Weston Colville and St Andrew's, West Wrattling

The views expressed herein are those of the contributors.

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From the Vicarage

We have all been watching the horrific news about the earthquakes in Nepal, and wanting to do something to help. The Churches, along with other village groups, have organised several fund-raising events. At one of these, Alex Kennedy, from the primary school in Great Abington, asked to join in and run his own stall. He had seen the children's news, and he felt so strongly that he had to do something. He chose the toys that he no longer played with, and brought them along to sell. His mum was in the background, but he was the one who set up and ran the stall, and he raised £38.10 to go to help the people of Nepal. It is heartening to see someone so young showing compassion in such a practical way.

On 8th June there is to be a Confirmation Service at Great Abington at 6.30 pm. Stephen Johnson from Great Abington, Ciaran Archer from Little Abington, and Fraser Rogers from Weston Colville, are amongst those who are going to be confirmed, along with others from the Deanery. Bishop Stephen will conduct the service. The seven-churches choir, which includes a number of people from Weston Colville and West Wrattling, will be singing. I anticipate that this will be an inspiring occasion.



The Weston Colville Flower Festival Weekend will take place on 27th and 28th June, with a concert by Daniela Rossi taking place on Saturday evening.

Rev Julie Norris

St Mary's Church, Weston Colville **FLOWER FESTIVAL**

Saturday and Sunday,
27th and 28th June

12 - 6 pm Saturday, 10 - 6 pm Sunday
Concert Saturday 27th at 7.30 pm -
Daniela Rossi, classical guitar
United Service at 10.30 am
on Sunday 28th, all welcome

HELP PLEASE!

We would be very grateful for any contributions of flowers, or if you would like to help with the arrangements. We will be doing the flowers on the morning of Thursday 25th and all day on Friday 26th. Please bring flowers on the Thursday morning if possible. Please contact Gay Redman (290807).

We would also be very grateful for contributions of cakes or biscuits, and for help serving teas. Please contact Jenny Whitehead (290524).

**St Mary's Flower Festival
Classical Guitar Concert**

Daniela Rossi

Saturday 27th June, 7.30 pm

Tickets £10 (under 16s free)



Daniela Rossi studied guitar at the Conservatory of Bahia Blanca, Argentina, where she graduated in 2006. She has been winning prizes in international competitions since the age of 15.

Daniela has performed in solo recitals, with small ensembles and with orchestras in concerts across Latin America and Europe.

Tickets from:

Jane Wheeler: jane@janepryor.co.uk

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West Wrattin Over 60s

Thanks to Ann and Beryl, we look forward to holding our first garden meeting this year on Wednesday 3rd June at Hayter Close at 2.30 pm. We will hold the bring'n'buy and raffle as usual.

Last month, we enjoyed our trip to Scotsdales, had a lovely lunch, and also managed to find a few bargains!

The July garden meeting (on 1st July) will be at Concordia Cottage.

Wendy Halls

Help Needed in Tracing ...

Alison McGarrigle seeks relatives of Matilda Balls (1875 - 1918), who left Weston Colville for London, got married, but died in the 1918 flu epidemic. Please contact her direct; she has already contacted the Parish Clerk and consulted the village archive. Her email is a.mcgarigle2@btinternet.com

Drone Found

I have found a Syma K5C drone in a rape field near Scarletts Farm, Padlock Road, West Wrattin.

Please call me to retrieve.

Colin McCall (290036)

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Saturday Morning Café, West Wrattling

Thank you to all who have been able to join us for the West Wrattling Saturday Café. The café is run for the benefit of our local community and we are so pleased it is getting lots of support and proving a great way to catch up with so many people!

The café works by different volunteers offering to serve and donate cakes every month (including at least one dairy-free and gluten-free offering). There is no charge for tea, coffee or the delicious cakes, but there is a donations box.

People have been very generous with their time, home-made cake offerings and donations on the day. So far we have put these proceeds towards the following:

- a donation to subsidise the junior summer tennis club run by the d'Abo tennis club on the West Wrattling court;
- toys and games for a kids' activity corner for the café.

We will continue to put all proceeds towards community projects.

Please come and join us for the next café on Saturday 6th June between 10.30 am and 12 pm in the village

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hall. We look forward to seeing you there. There will be table tennis after the café, open to everyone, between 12 noon and 2 pm. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Sherry (290070) or Catherine (291307).

Tea and Cakes

All are welcome to our next Tea and Cakes on Friday 5th June, 3.30 - 5 pm, at the Reading Room.

Please spread the word and perhaps bring a friend. Thank you to all our helpers, cake makers, and those who simply turn up, for making it such a success.

I look forward to seeing you,

Melanie

West Wrattling Thanks

Many thanks to all those who have kindly volunteered to cut the grass in the village. There is now a team of people who are looking after the grass of the churchyard, village hall, pound, playground, footpaths and other public spaces. More help is always welcome; please contact Cobby or me if you could spare a couple of hours over the summer.

Ben (291307, bwrwillcocks@gmail.com)

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Social Events and Community Activities

Weston Colville wants to see more social activities. Our community-led plan said so. There was a range of ideas. Many would like a cafe, somewhere to sit, chat and have a cup of coffee with a bite to eat. We need to make some goodies and to help. Weston Colville has been good at this for as long as I can remember.

Would we like to listen to a talk on interesting subjects that we choose for ourselves?

Watch a film? There's already a suggestion to do this once a month.



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Play whist? Put up a basketball hoop, enjoy an afternoon in the sun with a glass of wine, or find out about the history of the village? The possibilities are endless.

And when we need help to get home – we'll just ask.

How do we make it happen? That's up to us. Last year Tea and Cakes could have succeeded or failed. It's fun and the idea really works. The cakes are good, with young and old enjoying themselves. If you want to join in, if you have ideas or if you would like to help, please send me an email, phone me, knock on my door, leave a note, or tell Christine at the shop whether you like the idea or not. With your ideas we can arrange a time in the Reading Room for a chat to see what we can achieve together.

*Allen Scott, Settle, Mill Hill
(290837, allen.scott70@gmail.com)*

Thank You WWFCF!

All flat roofs have a limited life span and, despite decades of careful maintenance and repairs, copious leaks in West Wrating Village Hall last year showed ours had reached the end. Good financial management and fund-raising cannot begin to provide the resources necessary for refurbishment required on this scale, covering as it does over half the area of the building. We are hugely grateful to the Wadlow Wind Farm Community Fund for an extraordinarily generous award of £20,000 which, combined with our own funds and a £3,000 contribution from the Parish Council, has enabled us to contract for a high quality modern roof replacement.

The application process has not been entirely straightforward but the WWFCF staff involved could not have been more helpful, patient, sympathetic, and

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supportive. They have clearly worked extremely hard to fully understand all the issues involved, and their much-needed guidance has been consistently open and clear. Moreover the decision-making has been commendably swift and unequivocal. As a result, we now have money in the bank, and work on the roof is well underway. Apart from cancelling a couple of children's parties (sorry!) it has been business as usual throughout this crisis.

I must also pay tribute to the WWFCF panel, comprising representatives from each of the villages eligible for these grants. The panel meets twice a year to consider funding applications. It takes an impressive measure of unselfishness to look beyond an idea of due share, at any one time, to treat such an asymmetric bid on the basis of case of need. We are beholden to them too.

My thanks again to all concerned.

Mike Rowland
Chairman

WWVH Management Committee



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Music Bash, Friday 10th / Saturday 11th July

The Music Bash will be held at the Recreation Ground at West Wrating, from 7 pm on Friday 10th July, with three bands in a marquee. A licenced bar and barbecue will be available.

The Music Bash on Saturday 11th July will be from 2 pm till late, with many live bands playing (free of charge; very much appreciated) to raise money for EACH (in memory of Chelsey Boreham) and to raise funds for West Wrating football clubs.

We have always had a fun family atmosphere and everyone is welcome to come and listen to the music. Last year there was bad weather but the day was still successful, and a larger marquee will be in place this year. There will be a bar, barbecue, tractor rides, bouncy castle, cake and bottle stalls, face painting and much more – please come along and support and enjoy the day and evening.

It would be greatly appreciated if anyone wished to donate prizes for the raffle.

Blanche Miller, Sports Pavilion Secretary

www.westwratting.org.uk

for information on:

What's On	Directory	Parish Council
Parish History	Local Sports	Village Hall Events
Church News	Parish Matters	Village Calendar

Please send us your contributions, events, notices, photos and comments.



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West Wratting Village Show

The show will be on Saturday 1st August, and the new and old committee is working hard to make this another fabulous day. We are handing out free wild flower mix seeds to schools (for the best display) and carrot seeds (for the biggest carrot).

The next show meeting will be on 26th May, at 84 High Street, West Wratting, from 8 pm. Email me at thejobs@hotmail.co.uk if you want to help, but don't want to come to a meeting.

Many thanks to all those who have helped so far, and please have a great time planting ready for the show. We need lots of people there on the day, so if you don't fancy helping this year, simply come along and bring your friends and family for a great day out.

The show programme and pet class schedules are being rewritten, so the event will be completely different, with more sideshows and things to do than ever before. Watch out this year for Zorbs, too!

Jeanette

West Wratting Book Club

We reviewed 'The Garden of Evening Mists' by Tan Twan Eng, which is the story of a Chinese woman who survived a Japanese prisoner of war camp in the tea highlands in occupied Malaya, and her strange apprenticeship to a Japanese gardener, and her friendship with a South African tea farmer

It was a very moving story, not least because it reminded some of us of the Aquariums of Pyongyang and North Korea, recently in the press for brutality. It raised a variety of emotions, as it was in places very calm, and moving, and then horrific, and devastatingly and despairingly violent. Beautifully written, it covered the fascinating history of Malaysia, South Africa, Japan, China, and all the interrelated

traditions, customs and legends. There seems to be a theme of forgiveness, but with some unexpected twists. We would all recommend it, and it is very thought-provoking about human nature, and also the role of the English in all those wars. We scored it 43 out of 50.

The next book club meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd June, 8 pm at The Chestnut Tree, to review 'Eleanor Marx: a Life' by Rachel Holmes. We may then review 'H is for Hawk', or any other suggestion, on 8th July.

Come along, have a chat, and if you have read or are partway through the book, that's great. We do not have a structured discussion, it tends to follow whoever is there, so please come along for a chat. For more information, ring me.

Jeanette (290706)

News from The Chestnut Tree

The Devil's Dyke Morris Men will be dancing at The Chestnut Tree from 9.00 pm on Thursday 25th June. Please come along and show your support; it is usually a fun evening, especially if the rain stays away, so fingers crossed.

A big thank you to those of you who have kindly donated books to top up our library. It is now very well stocked, so please pop in and take a look. Please also continue to let us have any books you no longer need; all are gratefully received.

Finally, a note for your diaries – our charity beer festival this year will be from Thursday 24th to Sunday 27th September. More details to follow nearer the time.

We thank you all for your continued support.

Peter & Rachel

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Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service

Think twice before jumping into water this summer.

Would you jump into a river, lake or any other open waterway on a hot sunny day? Do you know what hazards lie beneath the water? Or how cold the water is?

Your fire service has pledged to deliver water safety education to every school in Cambridgeshire following the tragic death of a teenage boy last summer.

But there is only so much we can do, and we're calling on parents, carers and peers to talk to each other about water safety.

Some things to remember:

- You do not know what hazards lie beneath the surface of rivers, lakes, canals, etc.
- Strong undercurrents can be tough to conquer, even if you know how to swim
- Cambridgeshire's waterways are cold – even on the hottest days of the year – and this has a dramatic effect on your body's ability to swim and get yourself out of trouble should you get stuck.

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Kwik Cricket Tournament, Weston Colville



Sunday June 14th is the date for the Kwik Cricket Competition. Teams from Dullingham, Haverhill, Hundon, Abington and Thriplow will join the home team in this 8-a-side tournament, designed to give young players aged 10 and under the opportunity to play for their clubs. For some this could be their first experience of competition. It all starts at 12 noon and each team will play three matches. For those supporting there will be a BBQ and bar running throughout the afternoon. Come along and see the next generation of cricketers take their first steps.

Steve Potter

Children's Summer Holiday Tennis Coaching



Once again we are very lucky to have engaged the services of Paul Harms, LTA Master Coach (level 5), of Linton Tennis Academy, for four days of tennis coaching for children in the summer holidays, on our court in West Wrating.

The course will run on Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th, Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th August, as follows:

- Tots Tennis (pre-school children), 9 - 9.30 am each day.
- Red Ball (for ages 8 and under), 9.30 - 10.30 am each day.
- Orange and Green Ball (for 9 - 10 year olds), 10.30 - 11.30 am each day.
- Yellow Ball (for 11 years and over), 11.30 - 12.30 am each day.

This year we have been very generously subsidised by the West Wrating Saturday Cafe.

	SINGLE SESSION	ALL FOUR DAYS
Tots Tennis	£3	£10
Red/Orange/Green/Yellow Ball	£6	£20

Children do not have to be members of the d'abc Tennis Club in order to join in with this summer programme, but there will be an additional charge of £2 per child for non-members.

If you are interested in getting your children involved in some tennis this summer please contact Cally Wilson on 01223 290179 or email cally.wilson@hotmail.co.uk

Senior Football Report for 2014/15

All three teams finished the season with a flourish, which resulted in the 1st team finishing in sixth place in the Kershaw Premier League, with 58 points, the Reserves in tenth place in the Kershaw Senior League 1B, with 37 points, and the third (the 'A') team, in ninth place in the Newmarket Motors League 4A, with 32 points. Unfortunately all three teams missed out on silverware this season.

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West Wrattling Youth Football

The youth section continues to go from strength to strength after another good season for all six youth teams involved at West Wrattling.

In their first season of playing together, and despite being thrown straight into the league, the **u7s** have done really well, and held their own in the games they played this year. They have had three players accepted on to the Norwich City training programme for next year.

The **u8s** were a new team and didn't have much time together at the start of the season, but they turned a corner and showed a massive improvement, and things are looking really good for next season when they enter the league.

The **u10s** played in the A League this season, and struggled at first to adapt to passing the ball, but the team is now playing some really nice football, and is a match for any team in the league. They won the West Wrattling Cup this season, beating Exning on penalties.

The **u13s** have had another good season; moving up to 11 a side hasn't fazed them at all, and they finished second.

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The **u14s** have played in the A League this season, and done really well under Paul England, with some very good results, finishing fourth overall, and reaching a cup final. They also have boys at the Norwich City Centre of Excellence.

The **u15s** were like a different team this year; what a turnaround from last season. They finished second in the A League and won the League Cup.

The youth section as a whole looks strong for next season.

West Wrattling Sports Pavilion

We held a gentlemen's evening at the pavilion and raised £350 for the Brain Tumour Charity. The night was very successful; many thanks to all for their support.

We wish to thank Nick Ager (Youth Team Manager and Chairman) for his much appreciated work and support with both the Senior and Youth football teams and the pavilion. Nick and his family are emigrating to New Zealand in the very near future, and we would all like to wish Nick and his family all the best in their new life.

Sisse has now stepped down from the Parish Council Committee. She used to attend our meetings to help with the upkeep of the pavilion, and guide when possible. We wish to thank her for all her help and support; she is already missed, and is always welcome, even if it's just to pop in for a drink.

Events in the pavilion – there will be Christening celebrations in the pavilion on Sunday 31st May and Sunday 16th August, both from 12.30 until 7 pm.

Blanche Miller

West Wrattling Sports Pavilion
Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at the Pavilion on
Monday 6th July at 7.00 pm.

We would like as many as possible of the players and managers from both Youth and Senior teams, and the public, to attend please.

Refreshments will be available.

Blanche Miller,
Sports Pavilion Secretary

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Weston Colville Cricket Club



The new season is well under way and all the senior teams have been in action. The weather has been changeable but all fixtures have been completed with minor interruptions for rain.

The Mid-week team, playing in Division 4 of the Haverhill Adams Harrison Mid-week League, is getting up to speed, with a number of young players in the squad. Playing at home to Ashdon, Weston made a fine total of 159 for 4 in their 20 overs, thanks to fine knocks from Pete Bragg (40 not out) and Joe Robins (80) but Ashdon just managed to pass their target, making 161 in their innings. The first match of the season at home to Burrough Green was also lost, by 5 wks, although Alex Thompson (38) and William Garrad (25) made some useful runs in Weston's total of 103. Burrough Green were 106 for 5 in reply.

The first team has been struggling to field its strongest side in the Tucker League Division 2, with players being variously unavailable over the first few matches. They have yet to chalk up a victory, but a couple of close draws and a narrow loss could easily

have been turned into victories with a bit more luck. The first match of the season, on 18th April, was at home to Khalsa and Weston restricted the visitors to a modest 144 all out, with Matt Daniels bowling well with 3 for 31. However, Weston fell just 15 runs short in the chase in spite of Trevor Westley (41) and Chris Scott (25) making good contributions. In a low-scoring match at home to Huntingdon & District the following week, Weston suffered a second narrow defeat. They could only manage 89 (Adam Taylor 32) batting first, but Huntingdon lost 6 wks, Matt Daniels taking 4 for 38, before reaching 93 to win the match.

Playing away at Sawston & Babraham on 2nd May, Weston batted first and amassed a decent total of 231 for 2 with Trevor Westley (43), Andy Brightmore (37), Chris Scott (85 not out) and Adam Taylor (57 not out) all making good scores. Sawston were always behind in the chase but Weston could not bowl them out so the match ended in a draw with Sawston on 168 for 8, well short of the target, with Matt Daniels (3 for 35) and Trevor Westley (3 for 31) just failing to bowl them out. At home to St Ives on 9th May, Weston batted first and made just 121, though Adam Taylor (41), Andy Brightmore (26) and Trevor Westley (24) made useful runs. Unfortunately, the St Ives openers were in good form and they reached 106

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for 1, sealing a win. Another draw followed away to Blunham on 16th May. Blunham batted first and made 242 all out, and Weston made a good effort at chasing down the runs but fell short on 200 for 7. It is early days in the season but players are making runs and we expect some better results over the next few matches.

It has been a better start to the season for Weston Colville 2nd XI in CCA Junior 6 South, with two wins and one defeat. The first match of the season saw us at home, playing Longstowe II. Batting first, Weston scored 235 for 8, with Alex Thompson top scoring falling just short of his century on 99. He was well supported by Craig Williams with 66 in a second wicket stand of 112. In reply, Longstowe were all out for 86 in the 28th over. The best bowling figures were from Carl Thompson who took 3 for 9. The second game saw us travel to Cokenach, a picturesque ground with a wonderful pavilion. Cokenach batted first making 179 for 5 in their allotted overs. The best bowling was from Craig Williams with 3 for 21 off 4 overs. In reply, Weston were always struggling, losing wickets regularly, and were eventually all out for 131 in the 39th over. Top scorer was Craig Williams on 59. Last weekend saw Weston welcome Cherry Hinton II, who turned up with two ladies in their team. Put in to bat, Weston scored a massive 317 for 8 from the 40 overs. Top scorer was Paul Mayfield on 90, with contributions from Alex Thompson (20), Mick Franks (28), Jack Eade, with an excellent first senior half century, eventually out on 62, Euan Mayfield (21) and Adrian Reedman with 20 not out. In reply, a stubborn Cherry Hinton batted through the 40 overs making 196 for 6. A special mention to 13 year old Torin Reedman who took his first senior wicket in the last over of the innings.

Forthcoming Senior Fixtures

	1st XI	2nd XI	MW
3 rd June			Ickleton II (H)
6 th June	Eaton Socon (H)	Hardwick & Caldecote II (A)	
10 th June			Balsham (Cup) (H)
13 th June	Kimbolton (A)	Hardwick & Caldecote II (H)	
17 th June			Burrough Green (A)
20 th June	Fordham (H)	Thriplow III (A)	
24 th June			Cup
27 th June	Cambridge NCI (A)	Ickleton (H)	



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For more information about Weston Colville Cricket Club, please visit our website at <http://westoncolvillecc.co.uk>

John Garrod

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Sunday 7th June 10 am – 2 pm

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Weston Colville Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)

One problem reported in the past month involved a mobile home horse box, which was parked at a residence in Weston Colville for an equestrian event. On Sunday 10th May, between noon and 1.20 pm, someone gained entry to the living area and took a handbag and some keys. Otherwise we have experienced a peaceful period here, but criminal activity continues around us.

Several vehicles have been broken into, damaged, had windows broken, and/or had items stolen from them in villages like Sawston, Linton, and Balsham. The police advise locking property in the boot where it cannot be seen and where it is more secure. Also, attempts made to break into houses have failed but caused damage in the process.

Problems in areas around us include the theft of a catalytic converter and four 19 kg bottles of propane, and straw bales set on fire. The fire is thought to have been caused by children. The police are concerned that parents should warn their children that this is very dangerous, and neither fun nor a game. Caravan theft is becoming a problem in the county. Take security

precautions to reduce the chances of becoming a victim. Immobilise your caravan even if you are only stopping for a short time.

Crime prevention, keeping safe-online, and rural crime have been flagged as especially important by the police. To help protect your property you can mark it with a smart-water kit (£10) and shed alarms (£8). These are available to purchase from the police as part of operation Oakleaf; please see our PCSO.

Please remain vigilant and report suspicious behaviour to the police on 101, or ring 999 for an immediate response.

Allen Scott (290837, allen.scott70@googlemail.com)

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West Wrattling Oil Syndicate

May fillup details – 25 houses in West Wrattling participated in the order that was placed on 11th May, with deliveries being made over the next seven days.

Shelford Energy again won the WW syndicate order with a price of 37.10p per litre, a saving of 1.94p per litre against the benchmark Boilerjuice price of 39.04p for standard delivery of 1,000 litres and a saving of 1.8p against the Boilerjuice 'Bulk' (syndicate) price of 38.90p. All prices + VAT, of course. So, unlike the last fillup in March, the syndicate achieved much better prices than Boilerjuice, with even larger savings for the households which ordered the 500 litres minimum.

The next fillups will be in July, September and October, with details in the relevant month's Challenge.

The village website www.westwrattling.org.uk has an explanatory page about how the oil syndicate works.

Richard Holness

Little Thurlow Hall

GARDEN OPEN DAY

Sunday 14th June
2pm to 5pm

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West Wickham Carpet Bowls Club

Are you looking for something to do locally? Why not give West Wickham Capet Bowls Club a try? You will be given a warm welcome. Carpet bowls is a fun game, suitable for all ages and abilities, and all equipment is provided. Meetings are very social occasions and our members come from the surrounding area including Balsham, Horseheath and Haverhill as well as West Wickham, so there is every opportunity to meet people and make new friends. We do not play in a league, but regularly play friendly matches against other clubs in the area. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm in West Wickham Village Hall. Please get in touch if you would like further information, either with me, Janet Morris, on 290863 or Eric Ellam on 290357.

West Wickham & District Gardening Club

Many thanks to all of you who donated plants for our Plant Sale on Saturday 16th May, and a special thank you to everybody who came along and bought them. West Wickham Village Hall was full to bursting with vegetable and flower plants. We made £679, a record for the Club, which will help enormously in paying for our speakers next year. The annual Plant Sale is our only source of income apart from our minimal subscriptions, and small groups such as ours fight to survive in these days of ever-increasing prices.

We are West Wickham and DISTRICT Gardening Club, which means we are also there for residents of neighbouring villages. Your support at our Plant Sale and Annual Show would be so welcome, even if you cannot find time to join as a member. Indeed, should you wish to come to one of our talks please do so as a welcome visitor.

We now look forward to two evening private garden visits – Dip on the Hill, Ousden, on Monday 22nd June and Cobbs Hall, Great Saxham, on Monday 13th July, followed by our Annual Show on Saturday 15th August. Our autumn programme of talks can be found at www.westwickham.org/clubs/west-wickham-district-gardening-club/ Please ring me for further information.

Rosemary Yallop (01799 584262)

1st Horseheath Brownies

At the end of last term we said goodbye to Emily, who has moved up to 1st Linton Guides, and also to Saffia. At the beginning of this term we welcomed into the pack Ella, from Haverhill, and India, from Horseheath.

As we are now in the summer term we have been concentrating on completing our agility badge, and getting outside into the early summer sun. So far we have jogged around the cricket pitch, learnt about warm up and cool down exercises, learned how to ‘french skip’, and completed circuit training in the playground. We still have to master our ball skills and then that should be the badge completed.

During the second half of this term we have our Brownie Fun Day and Campfire to look forward to, as well as a joint event with 1st Linton Guides. It is ‘all go’ in the life of a Brownie.

If you would like to put your daughter on our waiting list, please register her at www.girlguiding.org.uk/ interested as we will still be very full in September. If you would like more information on what we do, or would like to help us with a special skill you may have, then please drop Sophie and me an email.

Pauline, Sophie, Katie & Hera
(brownies@horseheath.info)

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The Ellesmere Centre, Stetchworth

If anyone has access to a cherry picker and would be prepared to help us when the lights need changing on the Astro we would be most grateful. At present the changing of bulbs is very expensive as we have to hire a picker each time.


Acoustic Night – Sunday 14th June. Just turn up and join in with a relaxed evening of acoustic music. 7 pm start. Fully licensed bar.



 **ABC Gymnastics** are starting a new basics gymnastics club, with a free taster session on 9th June from 4 pm. Ages 5+ welcome, six-week block booking starting from 16th June, time tbc. Please register interest at abc_gymnastics@yahoo.co.uk

Tickets are now available for the **Medieval Banquet** on Saturday 20th June. Cost £12, to include your meal and entertainment. This will be a fun night, so please dress up and join in.



 The **Summer Show** is on Sunday 12th July, so start nurturing your vegetables and plants ready for the big day.

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Balsham Gardening Club



The weather was kind to us for our trip to Spencers Garden in Great Yeldham, named after its first owner, Lady Anne Spencer, grand-daughter of the first Duke of Marlborough and forebear of Princess Diana. The walled garden retains Lady Anne’s original 18th century grid structure but has been extensively renovated by garden designer Tom Stuart-Smith.

As we walked round it was obvious that this was a garden that could entertain in every season. The huge tumbling wisteria was a spectacle, and many spring bulbs were still adding colour. The large expanse of rose bushes led many members to agree that a trip later in the year would be worthwhile to see them at their best.

Harold’s Tips for June

Gardeners are always planning ahead, and it is now time to sow for next spring’s display. Biennial flowers such as wallflowers, sweet williams, Canterbury bells and broomrape stocks should all be sown now. Sow them thinly in shallow pre-watered drills. By sowing your own you are more certain of the varieties at planting time in the autumn. You can also save a considerable amount of money.

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The Meadow School

We are well and truly into the last term of the academic year...where did it go?

We are very lucky to have a running club, organised by a group of very dedicated parents, every Friday lunchtime. Come rain or shine, they take an eager bunch of Key Stage 2 children down to the Rec and coach them in distance running. Some of the Y5/6 runners recently got to show off their skills when participating in a cross-country relay team event in St Neots. We entered two girls' teams and three boys' teams, all of whom did themselves incredibly proud, running on a challenging course. Over 65 schools entered, with each entering up to eight teams – there were lots and lots of children there!

Our results were: Girls' A team – 33rd place; Girls' B team – 85th place; Boys' A team – 20th place; Boys' B team – 57th place; Boys' C team – 96th place.

We are looking forward to our next race meeting which will be in July, competing against our local cluster primary schools.

Our Infant children recently waited and watched eagerly as ten chicken eggs arrived in an incubator. After two days, they declared they were not hatching and could we swap them for the ones in Tesco? After some gentle encouragement and a lesson in



patience, the children were rewarded when the chicks started 'pipping' (a technical term we have learnt for when the chicks use their egg tooth to make a hole in the egg shell). The excitement quickly spread through the school, and anybody and everybody paid a visit. By the end of the fourth day, seven had hatched. The children thoroughly enjoyed becoming their surrogate

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parents, cuddling them, feeding them, and talking to them, although they weren't too keen on cleaning them out! They learnt so much and the quality of the writing and work they produced, based around the chicks, was absolutely amazing. We have now waved goodbye to our feathered friends, and they have gone back to life on the farm (to enjoy the peace and quiet)!



In May our Year 6 children showed courage, determination, dedication and perseverance as they took the end of Key Stage 2 SAT tests. As always The Meadow staff rallied around, volunteering to come in early and prepare a banquet for breakfast every day. I have never known children eat so many rounds of toast, bowls of cereal and bacon sandwiches, but it certainly helped prepare them for the tests. We will find out the school results in July, and look forward to sharing them with the children and the community.

Our Y6 children are currently looking forward to being rewarded for their hard work with a week-long residential trip to Finborough. My suitcase is packed and ready, the welly boots are in the car, and I am looking forward to a week of very little sleep! Of course, we will share news and photos from this in next month's update from The Meadow.

We were very sad to hear the sad news that Sandra Lamper, a former Meadow School teacher, sadly passed away recently. She taught at The Meadow for 24 years, from 1976 to 2000. She will have touched the lives of many of the families who have passed through our school. We send her family and friends our thoughts at this time.

Nichola Connor, Headteacher

Please join us for Bingo!

Burrough Green Reading Room

Friday 12th June

Doors open 7.30pm - Eyes down 8 pm

Bring along your own drinks and nibbles

Raffle

Raising funds for Burrough Green Playgroup

Derbyshire Post

Last month, this letter went out to parents and students at the College announcing my departure in January 2016.



Dear Parents and Students

I have to advise you that Caroline Derbyshire, our Executive Principal, has been offered the position of Executive Principal of Saffron Academy Trust and Principal of Saffron Walden County High School, and has accepted.

Needless to say we will be very sorry to lose her, but I am sure you will all want to join with me in thanking her for the outstanding contribution she has made to LVC and Chilford Hundred Education Trust over the last ten years, and wish her every success in her new job.

This will leave the Trust Board with the difficult task of finding a replacement to step into Caroline's shoes. Fortunately, Caroline will not be taking up her new position until January 2016, so we have time to make a thorough search.

Caroline has built a strong management team around her and I am confident that the high standards that we are all so proud of will be maintained.

I will keep you informed of our progress over the coming months in our recruitment for an exceptional person to be our new Executive Principal.

Yours sincerely

John Batchelor

Chairman, Linton Village College Governors & Chilford Hundred Education Trust

January is a very long way off and it is really not yet time to think about that for me, although the Trust Directors are already setting about the task of recruiting my successor. I am going to be sad to leave

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LVC and the Chilford Hundred Education Trust, but there are very many things I am keen to see achieved in the next few months: a new Astroturf for the school, completing the restoration work on the listed building, getting a really excellent Ofsted report for The Meadow School, achieving great GCSEs for the class of 2015, and writing a new improvement plan which ensures the ongoing success of the College. It is important to me that I leave a job I have enjoyed and a school that I have loved in the very best shape possible for our community, and I will endeavour to do just that.

Caroline Derbyshire, Principal



**THE MEADOW SCHOOL PTA
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Saturday 13th June

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St Mary's Church, Weston Colville

Holy Communion each Sunday at 9.15 am
(except on fifth Sunday of the month).

Contact Roger Whitehead (290524)

St Andrew's Church, West Wrattling

Holy Communion at 10.45 am each Sunday (except on fifth Sunday of the month).

Contact Sebastian Bain (882960)

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion in **Balsham Church** at 10.30 am on the first Wednesday of each month, and at 9.15 am on subsequent Mondays.

Methodist Chapel, Weston Colville

Minister: Rev Nigel Bishop (01440 702422)

Roman Catholic Mass

Every Saturday at 5.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am and noon, at St Philip Howard Church, Cherry Hinton.

Every Saturday at 6.30 pm, Sundays at 10 am, Haverhill (St Felix Roman Catholic Church)

DIARY

June 2015

- Tues 2 West Wrattling Book Club
- Wed 3 West Wrattling Over 60s garden meeting
- Fri 5 Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrattling
- Sat 6 Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
Saturday Café, West Wrattling
- Sun 7 Big Balsham Sale
- Mon 8 Confirmation service, Gt Abington
- Fri 12 Bingo, Burrough Green
- Sat 13 June Revels, Balsham
- Sun 14 Kwik Cricket Tournament, Weston Colville
Open garden, Little Thurlow Hall
- Thur 18 West Wrattling Lunch Club
- Sat 20 Medieval banquet, Ellesmere Centre
- Mon 22 West Wickham Gardening Club trip
- Thur 25 Morris Men at The Chestnut Tree
- Sat 27/Sun 28 Weston Colville Flower Festival
- Sat 27 Daniela Rossi guitar concert
- Sun 28 United Service, 10.30 am, St Mary's, Weston Colville

July 2015

- Wed 1 West Wrattling Over 60s garden meeting
- Fri 3 Tea and Cakes, Weston Colville
First Friday bridge, West Wrattling
- Sat 4 Farmers' Market, Linton Village College
Saturday Café, West Wrattling
- Wed 8 West Wrattling Book Club
- Fri 10/Sat 11 Music Bash, West Wrattling
- Thur 16 West Wrattling Lunch Club
- Sun 21 Summer Show, Ellesmere Centre

Revd Dr Julie Norris, Priest-in-Charge
tel: 891350; Balsham Church: 890895
(day off: Tues) email: revjulienorris@gmail.com

Revd Canon John Fellows, Assistant Parish Priest
tel: 291265 email: j.fellows321@btinternet.com

Revd Kathy Bishop, Associate Priest
tel: 892288 email: revkathy@hotmail.co.uk

Very Revd Keith Johnson, Honorary Associate Priest
tel: 890835 email: jkeith1412@gmail.com

Mr Steven Wheeler, Licensed Lay Minister
tel: 290643 email: steven@juicyfruitsuk.com

Mrs Rosemary Mead, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891718 email: leonardavmead@hotmail.com

Mr Keith Day, Authorised Lay Minister
tel: 891527 email: keithdday@btinternet.com

St Andrew's:	Flowers	Cleaning
7 th June	Louise	Fanny
14 th June	Alex	Jenny
21 st June	Linda	tbd
28 th June	Linda	Jenny

St Mary's:	Flowers	Cleaning
June	Anne	Lucy & Gay
July	Carolyn	Gay, then Mary

Black bins: Tuesday 2nd, 16th & 30th June,
Tuesday 14th & 28th July.

Green & blue bins: Tuesday 9th & 23rd June,
Tuesday 7th & 21st July

Mobile library: fourth Wednesdays (24th June, 22nd July)

High Street, West Wrattling	12.10 - 12.55
Post Office, Weston Green	2.05 - 2.25
Mill Hill, Weston Colville	2.30 - 3.05

Parish Council Clerks:
Weston Colville – Christine King,
wpcp@typo.demon.co.uk, 01223 290963
West Wrattling – Jenny Richards,
jrichards007@talktalk.net, 01223 665260

Editor: Anne Bragg (290550) or email:
editor@challengemag.co.uk

Thank you for all your articles, news, etc. If these are sent by email, they are always acknowledged; if you don't get a reply, your items haven't been received. Contributions can also be left at Weston Colville Post Office. Some may have to be edited, to fit the space available, and are published at the discretion of the editor.

July issue's copy date:
Saturday 20th June.

